THE ANNUAL REPORT (1896)

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE SHANKLIN

URBAN DISTRICT.

Gentlemen:-

During 1896 there have occurred within the Shanklin District eighty-two (82) births (all legitimate) viz: Thirty-six (36) males and forty-six (46) females. This number is one in excess of last year. Within the same period there have been regis[illegible] (31) males and twenty-four [illegible] likewise an increase of one [illegible]

The birth rate is [illegible] per 1000 of population whereas the [illegible] 1000.

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From the point of view of ages the deaths have occurred as follows:-

			Under one		year	5 deaths
Over one	year	and	under five		years	1 death
Over five	years	"	"	fifteen	"	2 deaths
" fifteen	"	"	"	twenty-five	"	8 "
" twenty-five	"	"	"	sixty-five	"	11 "
" sixty-five	"					18 "
				Total		45

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The birth rate is therefore 16·4 per 1000 of population whereas the death rate is 9 per 1000.

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Over five	years	"	"	fifteen	"	2	deaths
" fifteen	"	"	"	twenty-five	"	5	"
" twenty-five	"	"	"	sixty-five	"	14	"
" sixty-five	"					18	"
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Under one year	5 deaths
Over one year and under five years	1 death
Over five years and under fifteen	3 deaths
" fifteen " " twenty-five	5 "
" twenty-five " " sixty-five	11 "
" sixty-five "	16 "
Total	45

From the point of view of causation the various deaths were attributable to the following causes:-

9	were	due	to	Senile decay
5	"	"	"	Phthisis pulmonalis (consumption)
4	"	"	"	Influenza
3	"	"	"	Apoplexy
3	"	"	"	Heart disease
2	"	"	"	Cancer
2	"	"	"	Tuberculosis other than Phthisis
2	"	"	"	Peritonitis
2	"	"	"	Meningitis
2	"	"	"	Whooping cough
1	was	"	"	Spinal sclerosis
1	"	"	"	Measles
1	"	"	"	Aneurism
1	"	"	"	Bronchitis
1	"	"	"	Emphysema
1	"	"	"	Enteric (Thyphoid) fever
1	"	"	"	Anaemia
1	"	"	"	Rheumatic fever
1	"	"	"	Embolism
1	"	"	"	Drowning
1	was uncertified.			
Total 45				

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2 " " " Cancer

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2 " " " Meningitis

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1 " " " Measles

1 " " " Aneurism

1 " " " Bronchitis

1 " " " Empyema

1 " " " Enteric (Typhoid) fever

1 " " " Anaemia

1 " " " Puerperal fever

1 " " " Embolism

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1 was uncertified.

Total 45

It will be seen that Influenza is still an important causal element in the death rate, though it no longer visits us in epidemic form. There were 4 deaths due to it in a total death rate of 45 which is 9 per cent of the whole.

I am glad to say that only four cases have been notified to me under the "Infectious Disease Notification Act" during the past year viz: 1 case of Diphtheria which terminated in recovery and 3 cases of Enteric or Typhoid fever, one of which terminated fatally. The cases of Enteric fever occurred in May, September and October respectively and were situated at widely different parts of the district. One of the cases was contracted outside the district, of the two others I failed to find any certain source of the disease. Certainly upon careful sanitary inspection no local defect could be detected. It was supposed that the accidental over-flow of sewage into Chine Hollow was the cause of one case, but that is not certain though possible.

WATER SUPPLY. I have little or nothing further to say on this subject than I have urged in my previous annual reports. It is from the point of view of the M.O.H. a matter of detail where the water comes from provided it be in quantity and quality an efficient supply for our growing needs.

In my last report I mentioned that valuable trials might be made at certain sites not far removed from your own reservoirs

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and that at very small cost, I was however then informed that the "Wroxal water" would be in Shanklin by the end of July!

If you can get the "Wroxal water" on reasonable terms and without too prolonged a delay certainly do so.

At the same time if you can get sufficient water to fill a large open reservoir there is so far as I am aware no objection to such a reservoir.

SCAVENGING. It would be a still further improvement in your scavenging of the district if you could see your way clear to have the house refuse removed weekly instead of fortnightly. May I again venture to suggest that the dust carts ought to be provided with covers.

DRAINAGE. It seems to me desirable that as early a date as you consider practicable the question of relaying the Esplanade and Chine sewer should be entertained. Every year a very considerable number of houses are altered or have sewers relaid etc. to qualify for your sanitary certificate, which is a most encouraging fact. But unless all your sewers are thoroughly efficient you cannot be surprised at a sudden serious embarrassment occurring in the middle of the summer when your district has double its normal inhabitants.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE. In the event of the ground at the back of the

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Parochial Schools coming more into use as a recreation ground for Shanklin children, I trust that you will have the slaughter houses there situated removed to a more suitable locality as they are even now not without foundation a source of some apprehension to those interested in the public health of Shanklin.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John Cowper

M.O.H.

Shanklin Urban District.

Feb: 1st. 1896.

Parochial Schools coming more into use as a recreation ground for Shamkin children, I trust that you will have the slaughter houses there situated removed to a more suitable locality as they are even now not without foundation a source of some apprehension to those interested in the public health of Shamkin.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John Cooper

M.O.H.

Shamkin Urban District.

Feb: 1st. 1899.